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# CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling an apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

5 automatically tuning a plurality of frequency channels associated with said emergency alert function to identify one of said frequency channels having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency channels (310);

using said identified frequency channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function (320); and

10 performing a test with said identified frequency channel (410-450), wherein said test includes determining whether said identified frequency channel receives a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function within a predetermined time period.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprised of providing an output message (1000-1300) responsive to said identified frequency channel failing said test.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said test further includes measuring signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined time period is approximately one week.

25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to modify an existing location code associated with said emergency alert function (1470).

30 6. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to add a new location code associated with said emergency alert function (1470).

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to modify an existing event code associated with said emergency alert function (1490).

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to add a new event code associated with said emergency alert function (1490).

9. The method of claim 1, further comprised of:  
providing an alert output responsive to activation of said  
emergency alert function (1940);  
storing information associated with said alert output (1950); and  
5 enabling a user to access said information (1960).

10. The method of claim 9, further comprised of enabling said user  
to replay said alert output (1970).

10 11. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function,  
comprising:  
tuning means (22) for tuning a plurality of frequency channels  
associated with said emergency alert function;  
processing means (27) for identifying one of said frequency  
15 channels having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency  
channels;  
wherein said tuning means (22) tunes said identified frequency  
channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said  
emergency alert function; and  
20 wherein said processing means (27) enables a test with said  
identified frequency channel and said test includes determining whether said  
identified frequency channel receives a user selected location code  
associated with said emergency alert function within a predetermined time  
period.

25 12. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said user selected  
location code is a FIPS code.

30 13. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means  
(27) enables an output message responsive to said identified frequency  
channel failing said test.

14. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said test further includes measuring signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

5 15. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said predetermined time period is approximately one week.

16. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to modify an existing location code associated with said emergency alert function.

17. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to add a new location code associated with said emergency alert function.

5 18. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to modify an existing event code associated with said emergency alert function.

10 19. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to add a new event code associated with said emergency alert function.

15 20. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, further comprising memory means (27) for storing information associated with an alert output, and wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to access said information.

20 21. The apparatus (20) of claim 20, wherein said processing means (27) enables said user to replay said alert output.

22. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a tuner (22) operative to tune a plurality of frequency channels associated with said emergency alert function;

25 a processor (27) operative to identify one of said frequency channels having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency channels;

30 wherein said tuner (22) tunes said identified frequency channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and

wherein said processor (27) enables a test with said identified frequency channel and said test includes determining whether said identified

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frequency channel receives a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function within a predetermined time period.

23. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said user  
5 selected location code is a FIPS code.

24. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said  
processor (27) is further operative to enable an output message responsive to  
said identified frequency channel failing said test.

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25. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said test further includes measuring signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

5 26. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said predetermined time period is approximately one week.

10 27. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to enable a user to modify an existing location code associated with said emergency alert function.

15 28. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to enable a user to add a new location code associated with said emergency alert function.

20 29. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to enable a user to modify an existing event code associated with said emergency alert function.

25 30. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to enable a user to add a new event code associated with said emergency alert function.

31. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, further comprising a memory (27) operative to store information associated with an alert output, and wherein said processor (27) enables a user to access said information.

30 32. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 31, wherein said processor (27) further enables said user to replay said alert output.